

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 10-20 remain in the application. Claim 10 has been amended.

Enclosed are copies of cover pages of various US Patents that correspond to the DE references cited on the first page of the IDS. No English language publication that corresponding to the cited DE 37 24 620 reference has been found.

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the Examiner stated that FIGS. 5-6 should be designated by the legend - Prior Art -. Enclosed are new drawings of FIGS. 5-6 containing the legend - Prior Art -.

Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, Counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved.

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 10-11 and 13 have been rejected as being anticipated by *Hirata et al.* (US 6,368,154) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In item 4 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 10-12 and 16-19 have been rejected as being anticipated by *Hirata et al.* under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In item 6 on page 4 of the Office action, claims 10, 14-15, and 20 have been rejected as being obvious over *Flickinger et al.* (US 6,517,382) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The rejections have been considered and claim 10 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 9, lines 13-21, of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 10 as amended calls for, *inter alia*:

A housing for pluggably receiving a component, the housing comprising:

a housing part forming an interior for pluggably receiving a component; and

at least one pressing spring that is deflected when the component is inserted into said interior of said housing part ***creating a prestress opposite a direction of insertion opposing the insertion of said component***, said at least one pressing spring having a length and a width

that tapers as said length extends into said interior of said housing part.

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office action, the Examiner stated that:

Regarding claim 10, the reference [*Hirata et al.*] discloses a housing 50 for pluggably receiving a component, the housing comprising a housing part forming an interior for pluggably receiving a component, and at least one pressing spring 62 that is deflected when the component is inserted into said interior of said housing part, said at least one pressing spring having a length and a width that tapers as said length extends into said interior of said housing part.

And in item 4 on page 3 of the Office action, the Examiner stated that:

Regarding claim 10, the reference [*Hirata et al.*] discloses a housing 150 for pluggably receiving a component, the housing comprising a housing part forming an interior for pluggably receiving a component, and at least one pressing spring 162 that is deflected when the component is inserted into said interior of said housing part, said at least one pressing spring having a length and a width that slightly tapers as said length extends into said interior of said housing part.

As can be clearly seen from the drawings of *Hirata et al.*, pressing spring 62 and pressing spring 162 do not create a prestress opposite a direction of insertion, opposing the insertion of a component. Consequently, *Hirata et al.* do not disclose or suggest a pressing spring creating a prestress opposite a direction of insertion, opposing the insertion of a component.

And in item 6 on page 4 of the Office action, the Examiner stated that:

Regarding claim 10, the reference [*Flickinger et al.*] discloses a housing 20 for pluggably receiving a component, the housing comprising a housing part forming an interior for pluggably receiving a component, and at least one pressing spring 30 that is deflected when the component is inserted into said interior of said housing part. *Flickinger* does not teach that said at least one pressing spring has a length and a width that tapers as said length extends into said interior of said housing part, however those skilled in the art would recognize that providing angled or tapered contact springs provides more resiliency for better contact between the springs and their intended contacting device.

The "resilient fingers 30" are mentioned in *Flickinger et al.* only in the two paragraphs re-produced below (col. 7, line 52, through col. 8, line 3, and col. 8, lines 15-27):

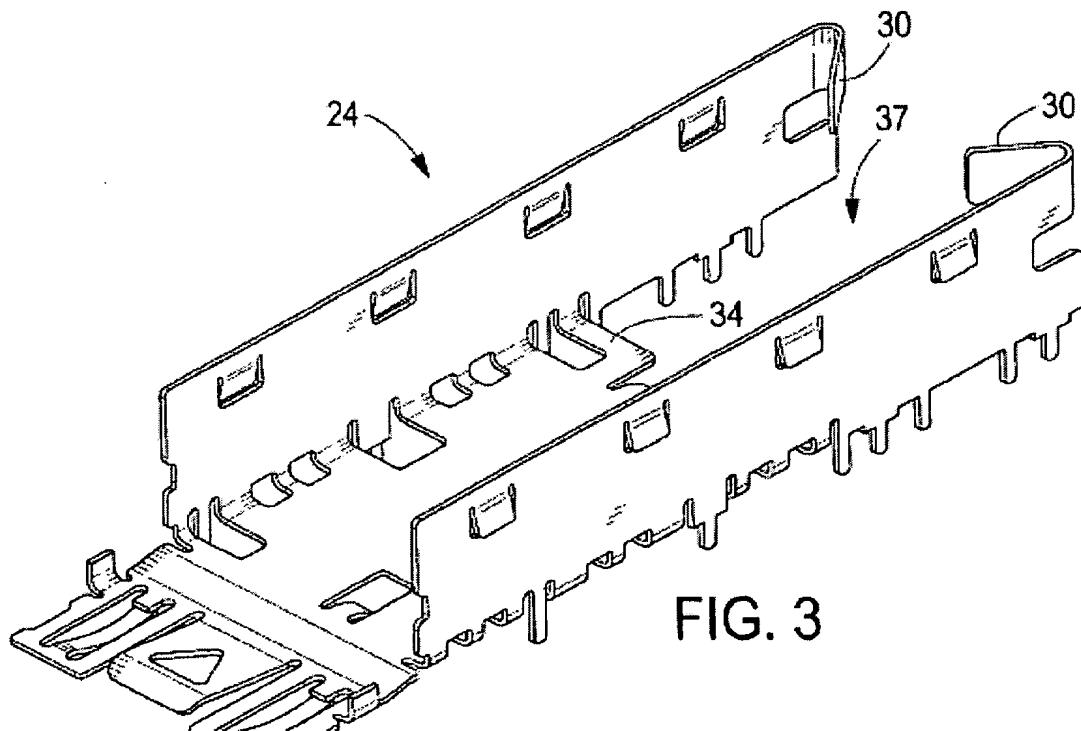
To facilitate miniaturization, the module and receptacle system of the present invention also employs ejection/retention mechanisms which do not add additional components to the system but synergistically use components of the receptacle. More specifically, portions of the lower portion 24 are bent inwardly to form **resilient fingers 30** extending into the cavity 39 of the housing 21, as shown in FIGS. 2 and 3. As a module 40 is inserted into the housing 21, as shown in FIG. 4, a back portion (not shown) of the module 40 contacts the resilient fingers 30 and deflects them outwardly. As shown in FIG. 5, the receptacle 20 includes a latch tab 42 having an inclined leading edge 44 and defining an opening 46. As the module 40 is further inserted, the leading edge 44 rides over an outwardly extending latching member 48 of the module 40, causing the latch tab 42 to be resiliently deflected, until the latching member 48 is positioned to enter the opening 46, at which time the latch tab 42 resiles, or snaps back, and latches the module 40 to the receptacle 20, as shown in FIG. 6.

The **resilient fingers 30** resist insertion of the module 40 and store energy as they are deflected outwardly until the module 40 is latched to the receptacle 20. The

module 40 may be released from the receptacle 20 by operating an actuator 60 of the module, as shown in FIG. 5. The actuator 60 is slidably mounted in a channel 62 of the module 40 and has a ramped portion 64 for deflecting the latching tab 42 by causing the leading edge 44 to be lifted until the latching member 48 is released from the latching tab 42. The **resilient fingers** 30 then resile and cause the module 40 to be at least partially ejected from the receptacle 20. This facilitates removal of the module from the receptacles and disconnection of the module from the receptacle connector 90.

(Emphasis added)

The "resilient fingers 30" are illustrated, for example, in FIG. 3 of *Flickinger et al.* reproduced below.



Clearly, *Flickinger et al.* do not disclose or suggest a "pressing spring having a length and a width **that tapers** as

said length extends into said interior of said housing part", as recited in claim 10 of the instant application.

The inventive concept of the present invention of using a "pressing spring having a length and a width that tapers" is explained on page 10, lines 1-9, of the instant application, stating that:

Given the same plate thickness and the same leg height, the restoring force or ejecting force provided by the restoring springs 71, 72 is in this case greater in the region of the wall 21 of the housing than when the rectangular pressing springs are used. This is to do with the fact that there is an approximately equal bending stress of the spring material in every cross section of the spring on account of the decreasing width of the springs in the direction of the interior of the housing.

There is no disclosure or suggestion in *Flickinger et al.* of the advantage of using a "pressing spring having a length and a width that tapers" for obtaining a greater prestress. Consequently, it is believed that *Flickinger et al.* do not suggest using a "pressing spring having a length and a width that tapers as said length extends into said interior of said housing part", as recited in claim 10 of the instant application.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that *Hirata et al.* do not show the features of claim 10, and that *Flickinger et al.* do not suggest the features of claim 10. Claim 10 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and because

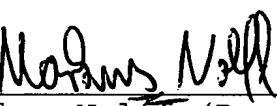
claims 11-20 are ultimately dependent on claim 10, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 10-20 are solicited.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$ 110.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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